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The Impact of Islamic Civilization and Culture in Europe During the Crusades

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Abstract: Crusades occurred between Muslims and Christians in 1097 to 1291, which its main aim was to recapture Jerusalem by the Christians. During this time, Europeans had enough opportunity to learn about Islamic civilization and its cultural and economic benefits. Although these were ended with the political and military victory of Muslims enabling them to keep their lands, Europeans were much benefited of the economy, culture and civilization. Crusades caused Europeans to be familiar with the East and especially the glorious Islamic civilization and they took advantage of Muslims' knowledge. This leads to developments that this later had an important role in the Europe progress. In fact the Crusades caused the transfer of achievements of Islamic civilization into Europe. The objectives of this study are as follow: it reviews the development of Europe after the Crusades, using rich culture and civilization of Islam and it investigates the stagnation of the Islam after the Crusades. That period is considered to be one of the most important liaison points. Although the crusaders came to the Islamic oriental seeking war rather than knowledge, they were influenced by Islamic civilization. The crusaders benefited as much as they could of the Muslims' achievements to Europe, which was suffering from backwardness and degeneration at that time. This study analyzes the appropriate responses to the following questions: Though the Europeans were trying to understand the Muslim community by establishing Islam and Orientalism studies and even teaching Arabic and Persian in their universities, why Muslims did not stepped towards understanding west in the same manner? Although Islamic culture had an outstanding effect on the growth of European intellectual, it was still virtually challenging to have mutual understanding among civilizations.

Key words: Muslims % Jerusalem % Islamic civilization and culture % Christian % Crusades % Dark ages

INTRODUCTION

Crusades are one of the major events of world history. These wars were happened between Europe Christians and Muslims and lasted about two hundred years. The crusades are wars that continued for about two centuries starting from the end of the 5th Hijri century/11th Gregorian century in (490 A.H/1097A.D) until the fall of the last bastion of crusaders in the hands of Mamluks (in (690 A.H/1291 A.D). Internal condition of the Europe was the main cause of these wars. However, the fields of the war were in Palestine, Egypt and Syria, which were the land of Muslims. So many losses were imposed to the Muslims in these wars. Gustav Lebon says: "The relation between the Occident and the Orient for two centuries was one of the strongest factors for the developments of civilization in Europe; those who want to know the influence of the Orient on the Occident have to understand the status of civilization of the peoples who were in both sides." As the Orient was enjoying of civilization's flourishing, thanks to the Arabs, the Occident plunged into barbarism [1]. Historians are almost

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unanimous that Islamic civilization came in contact with the Christian European west during the medieval times, when Europe was going through total darkness, via three main routes. These routes, which varied in the level of activity and cultural impact, are known as Andalusia, Sicily and the crusades. Political relations between Islam and Christian were influenced by Crusades. It was begun in the eleventh century and Pops tried to establish their domination in Europe's Christian. Crusades quickly became a procurator of colonialism and imperialism of the European countries to maintain their economic and commercial interests. Religion was just an implausible pretext to fulfill European colonial ruler's aims and it was apparent in the Fourth Crusade in 1204. During this war Enrico Dandolo (He was Byzantine Empire, 1107-1205), the ruler of Venice, conquered and looted the Constantinople. While the Muslim's conquerors were succeeded by Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi (1138-1193) conquered Jerusalem in 1187. Christian war was terminated with the fall of Granada in 1492 and led Muslims to Europe (Spain). However, Ottoman Empire emerged in 1453 in Eastern Europe, he conquered Constantinople and the center of Christianity in the East but area near Vienna in Europe gradually was extended to his dominance in 1683 [2].

From political-military point of view, conflict between religions have been used as an ideological instrument by Christians to defend the interests of the rulers in Europe and as it showed both intentional and unintentional misunderstandings during the confrontation between Muslims and Christians in Europe which happened for centuries. Confliction, mistrust and misunderstanding were being the legacy of the first encounter between these two civilizations and they have been remained till now. Currently anti-Islamic thoughts in Europe are mostly based on hate, they are the consequences of the crusades and hostile Islamic-Christian in the eighth century during the expansion of Islamic rule in Europe [3]. By the existence of European colonialism, relationship between Europe and Islam became as mandating policies and cultural domination from the Europe is similar to the European political power which designs the political map for the Middle East. Military's political domination of Europe's Christian has been completed, with the best claims in the ideological superiority, in opposite to Islamic civilization [4]. "Material aspirations" and "religious aspirations" were about the Holy Land and those popes realized that they can mobilize people to develop their religious and secular power [5].

The missionaries of this idea were the leaders of the Christian religion, but temporal power of governor in Europe followed this idea somehow. European monarchs tried to keep out knights and brave armed adventurers who disturbed the peace and tranquility of the local governments and they kept away from Europe by encouraging and preparing the travel procurements. Due to the provided quiet environment, they established secure government in Europe. This immigration was being continued During 200 years, adventurers, fighters and unemployed people migrated from Europe to Asia. The Crusades began by a pretext to persecute Christians in Jerusalem by Christians. However, the main reason of Crusades was the sense of ambition of Italian cities such as Pisa, Venice and Malfy, who wanted to expand the range of commercial power. At that time, Europe was limited to the Byzantine Empire from the East and to the Muslims in Spain from the West, but the civilization never moved into the Europe from these two regions. This is because the Byzantine government tried to impede the progress of European governments and European governments never progressed in civilization till the fall of Byzantine and the end of medieval [6].

It was an enormous change after these wars in the overall situation on the east and west, such as segregation of powers in Iran in Central and Western Asia. Furthermore, renewal of Abbasid religious power and complications led it to be available to foreclose thoughts and gradually start teaching in the Islamic East. On the other hand, there was freedom of thought and belief in the science education without church dominance in the West. The east was deprived from entire all benefits of civilization and culture, let to the Mongols [7] attack after the seventh century AH (13th centuries AD).

On the other hand, Europe progressed by translation of scientific texts, which they got from the libraries in Andalusia, Antioch, Tripoli, Iran, Egypt and Syria during the Crusader and they were rapidly advanced. On the other hand, formation of centralized power and fresh Western Europe has been occurred and the Roman popes were demised.

The Outcome of the Crusades: Although, these wars were ended by the political and military victory of Muslims and Muslims could to keep their lands, but also the Europeans could take enormous economical, civilization and cultural advantages. The Crusades made Europeans familiar with the Orient and especially the

Islamic civilization was magnificent. They were far from civilization and Muslims interest. The same developments which led to the development of Europe later had an important role. The achievement of Islamic civilization in Europe was moving behind the Crusades.

Quoted by Gustav Le Bon: The impact of the Orient on the civilization of the Occident was very great, thanks to the crusades" [1]. That impact was greater in arts, industries and trade than in sciences and literature. If we looked at the steady progress of commercial relations between the Orient and the Occident and the development in arts and industry that resulted from the relations between the crusaders and people in the Orient, we would find out that people in the Orient were the ones who extricated the Occident from alienation and prepared souls to progress, thanks to the sciences and literature of the Arabs which European universities relied on and made the renaissance era escape from there one day [1].

Significant Results of the Crusades: Although the Crusades ended after 200 years however, in practice, more than three forth of this period came over to the peace. In this long interval of peace, Europeans had the opportunity to learn about Islamic culture and its economic benefits have been gained. In addition to the Palestinian areas, where European Crusaders and Muslims called the ports of Egypt and Levant, as well as extensive knowledge of European cities in Spain's Muslim where it is the Islamic civilization. European traders assumed to play the leading role in this relationship. Some of the Christian pastors and churches were looking for the scientific achievements incentives of Islamic civilization silently [8].

Medical advances of Muslims in the knowledge development and manufacturing pharmaceutical plants had been attracted the attention of Europeans. During this exchange, Europe's had been familiar with paper, gunpowder, compass and the way of making them for first time. Islamic civilization in Europe was adopted with such goods, words and expressions. Muslims writings and books in philosophy, medicine, pharmacy, astronomy, geography, mathematics, had been taken the most attention. As well as number of books, including works of Farabi (Abu Nasr Muhammad al-Farabi, known in the West as Alpharabius (950), was a Muslim scientist and philosopher of the Islamic world. He was also a cosmologist, logician, musician and psychologist), Abu Ali Sina [9] (Abu Ali al-**9**usayn ibn Abd Allah ibn Sina) (c. 980, Afshana near Bukhara-1037, Hamadan, Iran), commonly known as Ibn Sina or by his Latinized name Avicenna, was a Persian polymath. Ibn Sina studied medicine under a physician named Koushyar. He wrote almost 450 treatises on a wide range of subjects, of which around 240 have survived. In particular, 150 of his surviving treatises concentrate on philosophy and 40 of them concentrate on medicine. His most famous works are The Book of Healing, a vast philosophical and scientific encyclopedia and The Canon of Medicine, which was a standard medical text at many medieval universities. The Canon of Medicine was used as a text-book in the universities of Montpellier and Louvain as late as 1650. Ibn Sina's Canon of Medicine provides a complete system of medicine according to the principles of Galen (and Hippocrates) and the Latin language and religious language in the medieval Europe, were translated.

Effects of the Crusades to Progress on Europe: Indeed, crusade was started in European lives and in the history of civilization. At that time, European countries, as a full glory of Islamic civilization, cities and centers were much more backward and they lives over ignorant the church. During the Crusades, Europe were known with the Islamic civilization booming and besides the material trophies, they were familiar with precious spiritual treasure of Islamic culture with them [10]. Under the crusade, the major ports of Europe, in the Mediterranean, started the era of prosperity and was provided a favorable background for the Renaissance [11].

The Crusades kept all Europe in a tumult for two centuries and directly and indirectly cost Christendom several millions of lives (from 2,000,000 to 6,000,000 according to different estimates), besides incalculable expenditures in treasure and suffering. They were, moreover, attended by all the disorders, licenses and crimes with which war is always accompanied. On the other hand, the Holy Wars were indirectly so much productive and lasting good. They form the most important factor in the history of the progress of civilization. The effects of the crusades which influenced are: The role, wealth and power of the Catholic Church, Political effects, Effects of the Crusades on trade, Effects of the Crusades on Feudalism, Social development, Intellectual development, Social Effects of the Crusades, Effects of the Crusades-Intellectual Development, Effects

of the Crusades-Material Development, Effects of the Crusades-Voyages of Discovery and Effects of the Crusades on the Catholic Church.

Effects of the Crusades on Development of Commerce and Economy: Because of the Crusades, Italian merchants gathered a great wealth; they learnt how to elaborate accurate maps of the Mediterranean. Chronologists like monks with soldiers were travelling and they found out a new understanding of the extent and diversity of Asia and they communicated the same to the others. Eagerness for travel and discovery was motivated people; some maps and books were elaborated as guides for travel to Asia for those who were interested. Christian physicians learnt how to cure disease and how to make surgical operation from Muslim and Jewish physicians and developed it. Crusaders lost Palestine and great Italian vessels; however, they have shown their domination on the Mediterranean. Before these events, Venice, Genoa, Pizza, Marseille and Barcelona [10] were trading with Eastern Muslims, Mediterranean Strait and Black Sea. However, cause of the Crusades, trade and business developed greatly.

Trade led to development of cities and urbanization, growth of the middle class, travels and exchange of ideas and cash flow. Started by agricultural feudalism and religious emotions, Crusades ended in an economic revolution which, caused progress of industries and development of trade and finally, ended in Renaissance. One of the most important effects of the crusades was on trade. They created a constant demand for the transportation of men and their supplies, encouraged ship-building and extended the market for eastern ware in Europe. The products of Damascus, Mosul, Alexandria, Cairo and other great cities were carried across the Mediterranean to the Italian seaports, whence they found their way into all European lands. The elegance of the Orient, with its silks, tapestries, precious stones, perfumes, spices, pearls and ivory, was so enchanting, that an enthusiastic crusader called it "the vestibule of Paradise.

Effects of the Crusades on Feudalism: Though the crusades had been defeated but they had a major impact on Western Europe. They helped to break down feudalism by increasing the authority of kings. Some nobles died in battle without leaving an heir. Their lands passed to the king. Some nobles sold their land in an effort to raise their money to pay the special tax levied by the king to offset the cost of the crusades. Some nobles gave their serfs a chance to buy their freedom in an effort to raise money which they needed to buy armor and weapons. Some young men who could buy their way out of feudal obligation joined the crusades. Many of them died, that reduced the work force. If a farm failed, it passed to the king.

The crusades could influence on the 0life of Western Europe in many ways. For instance, they helped to undermine feudalism. Thousands of barons and knights mortgaged or sold their lands in order to raise money for a crusading expedition. Thousands more perished in Syria and their estates, through failure of heirs, reverted to the crown. Moreover, private warfare, which was rife during the middle Ages, also tended to die out with the departure of so many turbulent feudal lords for the Holy Land. Their decline in both numbers and influence and the corresponding growth of the royal authority, may best be traced in the changes that came about in France, the original home of the crusading movement.

Political Effects of the Crusades: Similar to the political effects of the Crusades, they helped to break down the power of the feudal aristocracy and to give prominence to the kings and the people. Many of the nobles [12] who set out on the expeditions never returned and their estates, through failure of heirs, escheated to the Crown; while many more wasted their fortunes in meeting the expenses of their undertaking. At the same time, the cities also gained many political advantages at the expense of the crusading barons and princes. Ready money in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries was largely in the hands of the burgher class and in return for the contributions and loans they made to their overlords, or suzerains, they received charters conferring special and valuable privileges [13]. And the other political effects of the Crusades were in checking the advance of the Turks; the fall of Constantinople was postponed for three centuries or more. This gave the early Christian civilization of Germany time to acquire sufficient strength to roll back the returning tide of Mohammedan invasion when it broke upon Europe in the fifteenth century.

Social Effects of the Crusades: The Social effects of the Crusades upon the social life of the Western nations were considerable and important. The Crusades afforded an opportunity for romantic adventure. The Crusades were

therefore one of the principal fostering influence and new life in Europe. From their exposure to superior Muslim technology, Europeans learned how to build better ships and using compass. There is not any negative impact the crusades had on Europe, because the crusades didn't take place there. The only negative impacts are the destruction of the Byzantine Empire and mass murder of people. There were a ton of deaths, but the crusades brought back a lot of forgotten Greek learning and Middle Eastern medicine as well as a lot of wealth. Besides that, the on consequence that comes to mind is positive. After the crusades merchants got a taste of the wealth that can come by trading with the east; such as spices, silk and so on [14]. This led to a rising merchant class in Italy, laying out the economic foundation for the renaissance. The crusades also opened up the trade route through Asia that led to the Age of Discovery. European civilization was pretty much turned around because of the crusades [15]. Also, they managed to take control of Jerusalem for almost a hundred years. There were tons of senseless violence and one crusade even turned into a scheme to get money from Constantinople for Venice. Although this is a debatable subject, one can argue that the rise of the merchant class helped nugget Europe to the long road of democracy. Earlier the Kings and nobles had all of the power, but they started to lose some as the merchants started to accumulate more capital and vast amount of wealth.

Effects of the Crusades-intellectual Development: This led to the formation of the Protestant Movement in Europe. Because of gradual decline and collapse of feudalism and growth of Bourgeoisie class, Europe encountered a great volume of commercial, industrial and economic interactions. And the process of overthrowing of feudalism and religion as well as progress of trade, industries and economy in Europe led to be commercial-economic revolution and finally to the birth of the modern West (Renaissance).

Emergence of Skeptics (with their doubts concerning religion) and denial of religion by people, spread of the process of thinking between European people, immigrations and travels to other regions as well as familiarity (The Fatimid Islamic Caliphate or *al-Fâ~imiyyûn* was an Arab Shia Muslim caliphate first centered in Tunisia and later in Egypt that ruled over varying areas of the Maghreb, Sudan, Sicily, the Levant and *Hijaz* from 909 to 1171) with other cultures, trade and economic briskness, altogether, are among the effects of the Crusades. Skeptics were claiming that defeat in the Crusades indicated that what the Pope, who had called himself the successor of God in the Earth, maintained was false. The other important effect of the Crusades was familiarity of Christians with industries and trades of the Islamic world; and this caused incensement of non-cleric activities in the European societies.

CONCLUSION

During the Crusades, for about two centuries, Muslims had a close, though hostile, relation with the various European groups. Nevertheless, Muslims were never curious about their conditions. Unlike Christians, Muslims have not considered Crusades as a special and separate event and found no difference between Crusades on the one hand and their occasional struggles against other disbelieving enemies on the other hand. During Crusades, European kings managed to continue their dominance in peace and contact their countries toward development and progress. Also, because of newly-emerged relations with the Islamic world, they began to translate Muslims scientific books and established the movement of translations in Europe. Also, Arabic, Persian and Turkish people were being taught in the European universities. Though Crusades lasted totally for 200 years, more than three quarters of this period passed in peace. In these long peaceful intervals, Europeans had enough time to become familiar with the Islamic civilization and enjoy its economic briskness. The main role in the relation between Muslims and Europeans was played by Italian merchants. Far from the control of Church authorities and cause of scientific motivations, some Christian priests became interested in the achievements of the Islamic civilization. Medical progresses of Muslims and their advances in knowledge of herbs and production of medicines had drawn Europeans' attention. In these interactions, European became familiar with paper, gunpowder, compass and the ways to manufacture them for the first time.

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